



Laptops for learning

Bulletin 5, May 2009

Program Director's report

The Laptops for Learning Program is now gearing up for the implementation stage. The timeline is very short to have wireless networks and technical support officers in schools before the laptops start arriving in Term 3. I ask for your patience over the next few months as the program office tries to keep everyone up to date. The website will have all the available information on it so regular checking is recommended.

In response to requests from principals this bulletin includes the following two information resources for schools:

- sample text for inclusion in school newsletters to inform school communities in particular Year 9 parents about the L4L program
- a stimulus sheet to assist Term 2 planning.

The main focus of this program is transforming teaching and learning. There will be lots of professional learning opportunities available for secondary school teachers. Additionally, the plethora of curriculum materials will ensure that no teacher is without support materials for their classrooms.

So hop on board!



Dianne Marshall
Program Director

WIRELESS CONNECTIVITY

IBM Australia has been selected to provide and install the wireless system to support the Laptops for Learning Program.

Implementation of this new service will require installation of new infrastructure both within schools and within the Information Technology Directorate. It will provide access to online curriculum material and other online services such as email and filtered browsing.

Installations will occur at most sites in two phases. Phase 1 will provide wireless coverage to the library and a set of learning spaces in close proximity. Phase 2 will aim to provide coverage to all remaining learning spaces.

It is expected that installations will begin towards the end of May 2009. Schools will be contacted by an IBM representative within the coming weeks.

The new wireless network will run, where possible, in parallel with the school's existing wired network.

Detailed information regarding the new service and installation schedules will be posted on the Wireless Connectivity pages of the Laptops for Learning website.

ANNOUNCING THE L4L TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT OFFICERS

The arrangements for the provision of school-based Technology Support Officers to support the Laptops for Learning program have now been finalised and it is expected that recruitment will commence immediately in readiness for the start of the roll-out of the wireless networks and the learning devices.

The program is committed to providing the minimum of a full time Technology Support Officer for every Secondary and Central school with an enrolment in Years 9 to 12 of more than 100. Schools with less than 100 students in Year 9 to 12 will be provided with a part-time Technical Support Officer, the minimum allocation being two days per week. Sharing of Technology Support Officers will be coordinated regionally. Technical Support Officers will be based in the school and report to the principal.

The program is also committed to providing additional support for Technical Support Officers at a regional level. Regional Managers along with Regional Technology Support Officers will be recruited to provide coordination for the Laptops for Learning program on a regional basis.

Recruitment for these positions will commence soon, with advertisements being published in the near future. They will be temporary appointments until 30 June 2012. For those who may be interested in these please keep an eye on Jobs@DET in the weeks to come.



The Lenovo laptop.

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING AND CURRICULUM SUPPORT

At the end of Term 1, principals were emailed a support package to assist their planning for the Term 2 school development day. The package consisted of links to interesting readings and suggestions to assist staff reflection and learning about the use of technology in teaching and learning.

On the 6th and 7th of May an exciting Laptops for Learning forum will take place at the Centre for Learning Innovation as part of the ongoing partnership between the Laptops for Learning Program, Curriculum K-12 Directorate and the Centre for Learning Innovation. This forum will focus on what learning with laptops will look like in our context. This forum is being attended by teaching and learning specialists and classroom practitioners from all key learning areas. Outcomes from this forum will inform the professional learning and curriculum resources produced by all partners in the program.

The Curriculum K-12 Directorate and the Centre for Learning Innovation collaboration will lead to the development of high quality resources for teaching and learning including segments and video clips of teachers, leaders and students talking about and working with laptops. Their reflections will then be available to inform planning and practice in all schools.

School based programs and structures that provide opportunities for teachers to plan, implement and share best practice in collaborative learning sessions, are seen as essential to the success of the Laptops for Learning program. Consequently, funding will be provided in 2009 to support the professional learning of teachers. Models for allocating professional learning funds over the life of the program are currently being explored.

Blooms Digital Taxonomy is a useful resource for planning teaching and learning in a digital environment.

Links in this Document

Blooms Digital Taxonomy:
<http://www.scribd.com/doc/13442504/Blooms-Digital-Taxonomy-v30>

TERM 2 THINKING ABOUT AND PLANNING FOR LAPTOPS FOR LEARNING

- Approximately 50% of teachers will receive laptops this year.
- How will we decide who is in the first phase?

↑ Teachers



- Policy, Implementation Procedures and the Laptop User Charter will be out soon.
- Who will read these and decide what we need to do at our school to implement these?

↑ Policies and procedures



- Professional learning and curriculum support materials are out soon.
- What are our professional learning needs now, in the medium term, in the longer term?

↑ Professional learning and curriculum support



- Laptops will be allocated to all year 9 students.
- Do we need to develop laptop protocols for classroom use?
- Laptop User Charters need to be returned before laptops can be issued. Who will coordinate this?

↑ Year 9 laptops



- Who will the Technical Support Officer report to?
- Will this be the same person with responsibility for L4L program leadership and management?

↑ Laptop liaison



- Laptop allocation details will be out soon.
- If we are to receive a pool of laptops for years 10-12 how will we use these?
- Is short/medium term loan to class groups the most practical model?
- Can we store and charge, track and keep secure any we decide to leave at school for day use?

↑ Pool of laptops



- Presentation materials will be sent out for a parent information event soon
- When will we hold this event?
- Who will give this presentation?

↑ Parent event



- Information about TSOs will be out soon including ideal facilities and details about employment.
- Where will we locate our TSO to maximise access?

↑ Technical Support Officer (TSO)



- IBM will contact us soon regarding our wireless installation date.
- Who will liaise with IBM about our network?
- What variations to routine will be needed?
- Who will manage this?

↑ Wireless





AN INFORMATION SHEET FOR PARENTS OF YEAR 9 STUDENTS IS ATTACHED TO THIS BULLETIN. YOU MIGHT LIKE TO INCLUDE THIS AS AN INSERT FOR YOUR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR PARENTS OF YEARS 10-12 IS INCLUDED BELOW.

Information for parents of students in Years 10-12

Additional resource bank laptops

Most schools will also receive an allocation of additional laptops as a resource bank. The goal is to increase computer access across years 10-12 to a 2:1 ratio. Schools will determine the best educational use for these but examples include medium and long term loan to students, class sets and library loan. These laptops remain school property.

The Education Tax Refund – Get 50% back

Under the new education Tax Refund, parents and others who are eligible can now claim 50% of their eligible education expenses up to \$1500 for secondary students. Laptops, educational software and home internet connections, printers, etc are eligible claim items under the Education Tax Refund. For eligibility and items that can be included see www.educationtaxrefund.gov.au

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NSW Department of Education & Training



For further information contact

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 Internet website coming soon.